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### Use of high-fidelity phantom human heads in veterinary dental skills teaching

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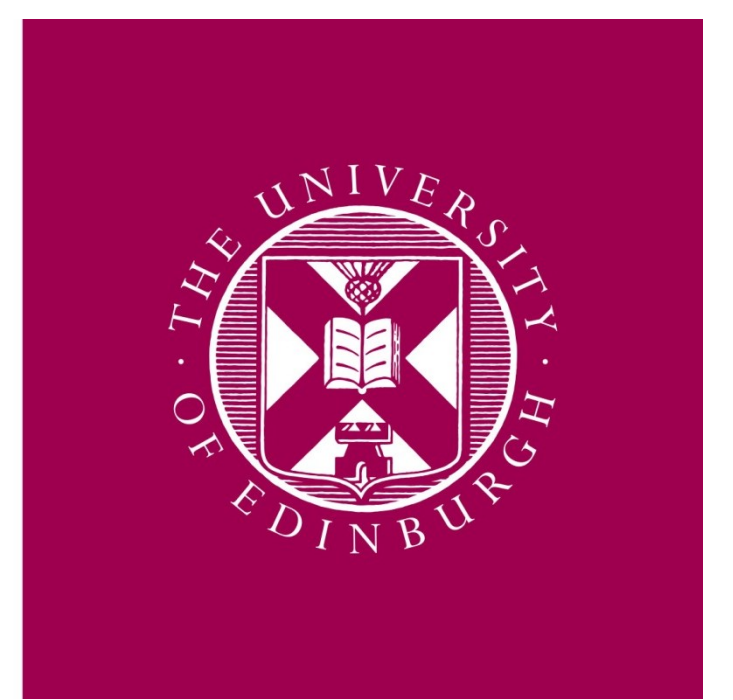
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# THE ROYAL (DICK) SCHOOL OF VETERINARY STUDIES



## Use of high-fidelity phantom human heads in veterinary dental skills teaching

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### Pilot course

Twenty three fourth year veterinary students were exposed to a two day course in human dental prophylaxis delivered at the Edinburgh Dental Institute's phantom head lab. Instructors were lecturers on the University's BSc (Hons) Oral Health Sciences degree programme and practising dental hygienists/dental therapists. A 'one medicine' approach took a comparative look at human and veterinary dentistry and emphasised core clinical, practical and instrument-handling skills.

### Conclusion

Veterinary schools with access to human dental clinical skills labs could consider using these facilities to promote better understanding of instrumentation and treatment in dental prophylaxis, ergonomics and operator health and safety.

### Course schedule: lectures and practicals

The normal periodontium | Overview of gingivitis and periodontitis | Risk factors | Biofilm and calculus | Periodontal assessment | Oral hygiene instruction | Principles of hand scaling | Prophylaxis | Sonic and ultrasonic scaling | Cavitrons and air scalers



There were constant reminders to sit properly  
and make this a habit

Amazing learning environment!

Learned loads about our own dental health too!

Those heads are SCARY at first!

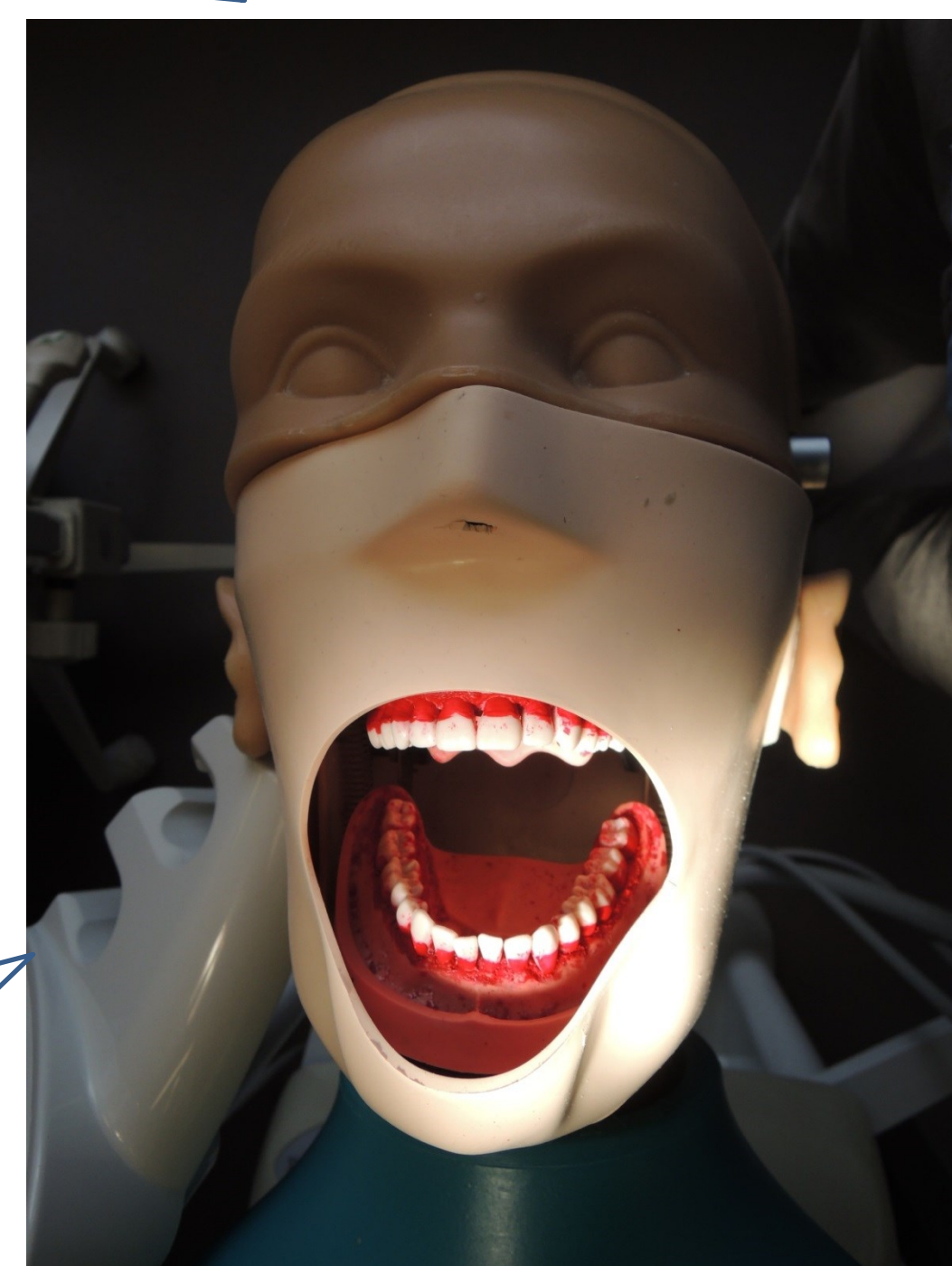
The staff were absolutely lovely and great teachers

Very helpful in improving manual dexterity

Instruments are always just handed to you. Now I really understand how to use them

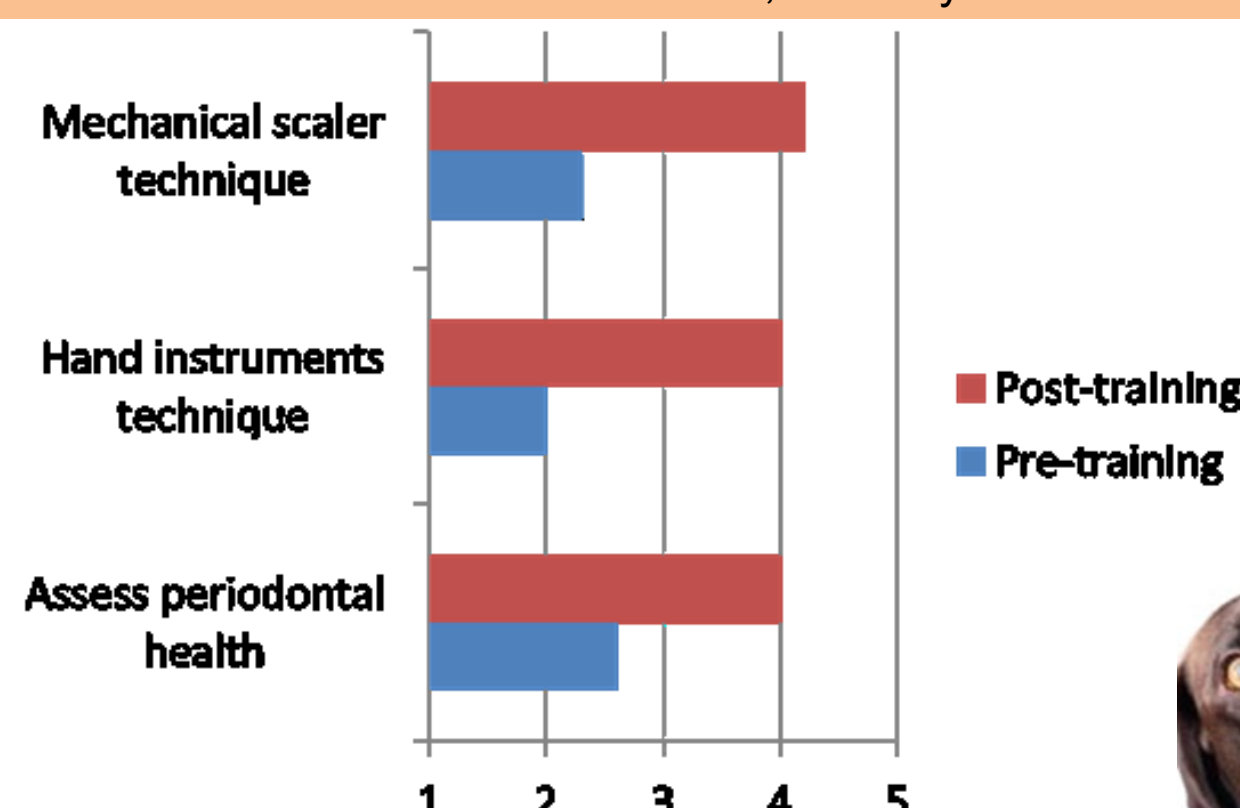
This is not something you can teach in a lecture

Animal models like this would be brilliant



On the BSc (Hons) Oral Health Sciences degree, approximately 110 hours of tutor-led teaching are dedicated to routine prophylaxis in the human patient - how much does my dentist need?

Student responses pre and post training on perceived competency at core skills. 1 = not at all confident, 5 = very confident



With grateful thanks to Lesley-Anne Palmer, Clinical Skills Coordinator at EDI